

Dear Park View Families,

I hope this message finds you rested and healthy. As the summer comes to an end, the Park View team has been working hard to ensure a safe full-time return to in-person learning. With the newly issued guidance for the CDC, ISBE, our local health departments, and the executive order issued by Governor Pritzker, we know that we have developed a plan that will continue to prioritize the health and safety of all our students and staff at Park View School. As we have learned over the past 18 months, flexibility, collaboration, and patience will be the keys to a smooth transition to full-time, in-person instruction.

Below you will find a brief FAQ of the Park View plan. This is intended to answer your questions on what this school year will look like as you prepare your children to return to school on August 23rd. While we hope there will not be any major changes to this plan between now and the beginning of the year, we continue to monitor the local COVID-19 positivity rates along with remaining in communication with our local public health experts.

Will students attend school in-person, remotely, or in some form of hybrid model this fall?

As I have shared in prior communications, the governor and ISBE have issued directives that all Illinois students should attend in-person schooling this fall. Thus, all Park View students will be returning to full-time, in-person learning.

Please note this guidance includes a very limited medical exemption for students who cannot attend in-person learning. Exemptions can be granted on a very limited basis as the goal is to have students in-person. If you believe your child or your household is eligible for a medical exemption, please email help@mgsd70.org to begin the process as soon as possible.

What are the main health and safety protocols to protect students and staff?

Mask wearing: Any individual that enters the school must wear a mask at all times. Masks are required to be worn per the executive order issued by Governor Pritzker.

Hand washing: Teachers and staff will ensure that students are frequently washing or sanitizing their hands. Each classroom has hand sanitizer available for students.

Cleaning protocols: The district has not pulled back any cleaning protocols from the 2020-21 school year. All classrooms and common areas are disinfected and sanitized frequently throughout the day.

Ventilation: The district has engaged in a process to confirm that the building meets the minimum requirements for fresh air ventilation. Additionally, we've ordered a heavy-duty air purifying system for the cafeteria as students will be gathering in this space.

Protocols in the classroom: The guidance on social distancing from ISBE is that schools should attempt to provide a social distance of 3' between students **to the extent possible**. Students will be socially distanced in the classroom and will be required to wear a face mask. Students will be encouraged to wash their hands and sanitize frequently.

Protocols in the cafeteria: Students will be sitting at individual tables that are cleaned after each use. The tables will be appropriately distanced to allow for students to remove their masks and eat their lunch. Lunch will be served in a grab-and-go style to minimize lines and the gathering of students. Lunch will be free for all students this year.

Protocols on the playground: Students will have the option to remove their masks as long as they can keep a safe distance from each other. Park View staff will monitor the playground and outdoor areas to help protect the safety of our students.

Protocols on the bus: Social distance guidelines have been removed for school buses. All students and personnel will be required to wear masks at all times while on the bus.

*It is important to note that this is not an exhaustive list of protocols. If you have any specific questions please feel free to contact help@mgsd70.org.

What are the district's contact tracing and quarantine procedures?

The district will continue to contact trace when notified of a positive or potential positive case of Covid-19 in the building. Families will be notified as soon as possible if their child is considered a close contact.

Students that are vaccinated (age 12 and up) are not required to quarantine if they are a close contact.

Students that are unvaccinated will be required to quarantine if they are considered a close contact. The district will notify students of their quarantine requirements.

Additionally, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has added a new option for unvaccinated students and teachers who have been identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. As an alternative to quarantine, students and teachers now have the option of a Test to Stay protocol. IDPH's Test to Stay protocol outlines that close contacts must be tested on days 1, 3, 5, and 7 after exposure with a PCR or rapid antigen test. As long as close contacts remain negative, they are not required to quarantine. Close contacts are only eligible for Test to Stay if their school requires masking of all unvaccinated individuals and both the close contact and infected student were wearing masks at the time of exposure.

Will the District be offering COVID-19 Testing?

Yes! The district will offer testing for any student and staff member that wishes to participate. The district will use BinaxNOW and Shield Testing as part of the state of Illinois testing for schools program. Students will also have the opportunity to utilize these tests as part of the Test to Stay protocol. A consent form must be completed for students to have access to the test. It is important to note that if you do not consent for your child to be tested at Park View school you must provide proof of COVID tests in order to be eligible for the test to stay protocol. If you do not want your child to participate in the Test to Stay protocol and they are considered a close contact, they will be required to quarantine for 10-14 days depending on the situation. The consent forms for testing will be sent soon. Once completed please submit it to nurse@mgsd70.org or turn it into the front office.

Should I get my child vaccinated?

Vaccines have been proven to be the most effective way to prevent serious illness from COVID-19. The district encourages all that are eligible to get vaccinated to protect themselves, their families, and our community from this virus. If you have concerns about the vaccine, we encourage you to speak with your child's pediatrician. Additionally, if you are in need of access to the vaccine, you can find local vaccination sites [here](#).

Will students be required to complete a daily health certification this year?

No. However, families must complete the COVID-19 Precertification Form as part of the health certification prior to the first day of school. **This form must be digitally signed before your child can attend school. You will receive an email from the district with instructions for completing the form. It is important to note that if your child is sick or feeling unwell, they should not come to school.** Please monitor your child's health as this will help to ensure that all members of our community remain healthy.

What does instruction look like for students that have to quarantine?

Instructional Supports

If a positive case of COVID-19 is discovered within a classroom and students are requested to quarantine, the district will utilize a combination of instructional approaches to service students while out of the classroom. To start the year our teaching staff will set up either a Google Classroom account or a Seesaw account and that information will be shared with families. Additionally, time will be dedicated to teaching our students how to access each specific account if a student is out of the building due to a COVID-19 related quarantine.

Instruction

As noted above, a combination of instructional approaches will be used for keeping students on pace with their peers. The school district has invested in live-streaming technology. The use of this technology will allow students quarantining to continue with classroom instruction while at home. Teaching staff will have the opportunity to use a combination of live-streaming instruction in conjunction with other work shared through either Google Classroom or Seesaw. Students will not participate in PE or the Specials classes via live-streaming, but will complete other work or activities provided. If a student is sick, the student will not be responsible for attending class. For a student to qualify for the use of this technology the student must have a negative COVID test submitted to the district nurse.

The use of live-streaming technology will only be used with illness or quarantine related to COVID-19. Students that are at home due to quarantine or a positive COVID-19 case will not have access to instructional materials or live-streaming instruction until 24 hours after the district has learned of the student being out of the building.

Will transportation be offered?

School buses have been exempted from social distance guidelines so we are able to run them at full capacity with mandatory masking for all passengers and personnel. Students will have assigned seats, and windows will be cracked open to increase ventilation. In light of that guidance, District 70 transportation services will be offered to all students similar to our pre-pandemic service.

Will there be before/after school programming and/or extracurricular activities?

Yes! After-school athletics will be offered and will follow the protocols and guidance provided by the Illinois Elementary Sports Association (IESA) and the Little 9 Conference.

Park View will offer clubs for students. They will follow all building protocols. Additional information will be communicated at a later date.

The Morton Grove Park District will offer onsite childcare options and will adhere to all District 70 protocols.

Will there be Park View community events this school year? Are visitors allowed in the building?

At this time, the district is not allowing visitors into the building during the school day. Additionally, we are postponing any in-person events that would normally take place in the first quarter. We will continue to monitor the situation in our community and communicate any changes or event dates throughout the school year.

Is there anything that our family needs to complete or turn in between now and the first day of school?

YES! Please complete the following steps:

1. Electronically sign and submit the COVID-19 Self-Certification form found in your PowerSchool portal.
2. Sign and submit your child(s) COVID-19 Testing Consent form, found [here](#). Please submit this form to nurse@mgsd70.org. Or you can drop off a hard copy at the main office.
3. If your child is vaccinated, please submit a photo or scanned image of your child's white vaccination card to nurse@mgsd70.org.

Our entire staff is excited to safely welcome all students back to in-person learning. We recognize that you may have more questions or want additional information. This FAQ is meant to be a high-level overview of the school's plan for the 2021-22 school year. Mr. Condon will be sending follow-up communications between now and the start of the school year with additional information from families.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to our administrative team by emailing help@mgsd70.org.

I look forward to seeing all of our Park View Warriors on Monday, August 23rd!

Sincerely,

Brad W. Voehringer, Ed.S
Superintendent